PATENT IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Case No.: MBHB00-830-A; 600/005) in re the Application of: **Group Art Unit:** 1623 Vargeese et al. **Examiner:** Josephine Young **Serial No.:** 09/887,182 Confirmation No.: 8596 Filed: June 22, 2001 For: METHOD FOR THE CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION **MAILED SEPTEMBER 24, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action Mailed September 24, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the patent application identified above in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Listing of the Claims reflecting claim amendments begin on page 2 of this Response. Remarks begin on page 5 of this Response.